GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5414
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2002
UNIFORM EDUCATION TO ALL
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR;MINATI SEN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce Uniform Education to All in order to kill the very seed of class irregularities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps/measures taken by the Government for ensuring quality education in Government schools?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b): The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986, asamended in 1992, provides for a National System of Education which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It includes a common educational structure, a national curricular framework and minimum levels of learning for each stage of education. The NPE also envisages separate and special provisions for the education of disadvantaged sections of the society.

Several schemes were launched by way of Central interventions primarily for meeting the needs of the educationally backward classes. These Schemes include Operation Blackboard, Non-formal Education, Teacher Education, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, District Primary EducationProgramme, Mahila Samakhya, Total Literacy Campaign, Community Polytechnics, Lok Jumbish, Shiksha Karmi Project, Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities, Integrated Education for Disabled Children, SarvaShiksha Abhiyan etc. While elementary and secondary stages of education are either fully or partially free in all Government and Government aided schools, higher and technical education are also subsidized to a great extent. The Government has also recently launched a scheme of educational loans for school and higher education upto a limit of Rs.7.50 lakhs for studies in the country and Rs.15 lakhs for pursuing studies in foreign institutions.

(c) : Concerns regarding quality and equity in education are also continuously addressed by the Central and State Governments through appropriate interventions. In order to ensure quality education in government schools, a number of initiatives have been taken with impetus being laid on Science Education, Environmental Education, Population Education, Culture and Value Education, Education Technology, Vocationalisation of Education at the Senior Secondary Stage etc. Establishment of the NationalCouncil for Teacher Education (NCTE) as a statutory body is another landmark for the maintenance of norms and standards inthe field of teacher education. NCERT have recently renewed the curriculumproviding for the incorporation of Information and Communication Technology at all levels of education. Besides, programmes of teacher education have also been revamped with impetus given to IT education.